

additional expense and delay to Applicants in having to protect the additional subject matter recited by the Group II claims by filing a divisional application.

MPEP §803 sets forth the criteria for restriction between patentably distinct inventions. (A) indicates that the inventions must be independent (see MPEP §802.01, §806.04, §808.01) or distinct as claimed (see MPEP §806.05-806.05(i)); and (B) indicates that there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP §803.02, §806.04(a)- §806.04(i), §808.01(a) and §808.02). The Examiner has not set forth why there would be a serious burden if restriction is required.

Even if the Examiner considers claims 7 and 11-12 to be a separate invention from claims 1-6 and 8-10, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider claims 1-6 and 8-10 (Group I) and claims 7 and 11-12 (Group II) together.

III. Conclusion

Upon review of references involved in this field of technology, when considering that the Group II claims are directed to, for example, loading either a USB mass storage driver or a data sync driver in response to a request from the USB host, and elected claims 1-6 and 8-10 are directed to, for example, switching between a USB mass storage data driver and a data sync drive in response to either a command from the user through an input section or a command from the USB host, and when all of the other various facts are taken into consideration, it is believed that upon reconsideration of the Examiner's initial restriction requirement, all of the pending claims should be examined in the subject application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed allowable and this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

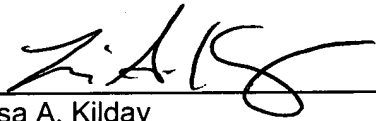
If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our deposit account number 19-3935.

Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney or agent.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Lisa A. Kilday
Registration No. 56,210

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501